

Town of Somers

Proposed Annual Budget 2017-2018

To: Somers Residents

March 21, 2017

The 2017-2018 fiscal years' proposed budget is \$32,232,993. This budget represents an overall increase of 2.67% over last year's adopted budget of \$31,396,041. Both the Boards of Selectmen and Education have done their best to maintain essential service levels while dealing with significant cuts in town and education aid from the State. This budget allows the Town to maintain the current level of educational instruction, programs and services to its residents. We are recommending an increase of 1.25 mills to the current mill rate of 24.22 bringing the new mill rate to 25.47. While other towns have experienced significant mill rate increases, until this year, ours had only increased 0.85 mills in the past four years. However, we believe the effects of the Governor's deep cuts in municipal aid have shifted the State's difficult financial burden to the cities and towns. We have attempted to hold the line on our budget growth while balancing the negative effects of State aid cuts. In an effort not to negatively impact our community needs, we feel the proposed 1.25 mill increase is necessary.

With regard to revenues, the Town's Grand List increased slightly by 0.68%, resulting in a minor increase in projected tax revenues. The General Government budget of \$7,756,421 represents a 4.66% increase over last year. Overall, Debt Service expenditures have decreased by 3.05% and the General Fund contribution to the Capital Improvement Projects fund has not increased. The Board of Education approved a \$22,558,627 budget for a 2.47% increase.

ANNUAL BUDGET

	FY 2016/2017 Adopted Budget	FY 2017/2018 Proposed Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Change
Town Government	\$7,410,849	\$7,756,421	\$345,572	4.66%
Board of Education	\$22,014,859	\$22,558,627	\$543,768	2.47%
Capital Improvements - Town Funded	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	0.00%
Debt Service	\$1,720,333	\$1,667,945	\$(52,388)	(3.05%)
TOTAL	\$31,396,041	\$32,232,993	\$836,952	2.67%

REVENUES

	FY 2016/2017 Adopted Budget	FY 2017/2018 Proposed Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Change
Property Taxes	\$20,264,040	\$21,453,004	\$1,188,964	5.87%
State Aid	\$9,565,139	\$9,202,515	\$(362,624)	(3.79%)
Use of Fund Balance	\$559,257	\$803,174	\$243,917	43.61%
Other Financing Sources	\$1,007,605	\$774,300	\$(233,305)	(23.15%)
TOTAL	\$31,396,041	\$32,232,993	\$836,952	2.67%

Somers Board of Finance: James Persano-Chairman, Timothy Geib-Vice Chairman, Thomas Mazzoli, Michael Parker, Joseph Tolisano, and William Salka

See www.somersct.gov for additional Town proposed budget information
 See www.somers.k12.ct.us for additional Board of Education proposed budget information
 Budget is also available at the Town Hall, Library and Senior Center

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS

* * * CAST YOUR VOTE ON THE 2017-2018 BUDGET * * *

**PLEASE
ATTEND
MEETINGS**

▶ **April 18, 2017 - Public Hearing 7:00pm** ◀
Somers Elementary School Auditorium
*To Discuss the 2017-2018 Annual Budget and
 Receive Your Comments*

▶ **May 2, 2017 - Annual Town Meeting 7:00pm** ◀
Somers Town Hall Auditorium
To Adopt the Annual Budget and Set a Referendum Date

▶ **May 9, 2017 – Referendum** ◀
Somers Town Hall Auditorium
VOTE on the Annual Budget

**CAST
YOUR VOTE!**